

**SKANDA VARODAYA COLLEGE**

**OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION-U.K**

**14TH AGM**

**&**

**MELLISAI MALAI**



**14வது வருடாந்த  
பொதுக்கூட்டமும்  
மெல்லை மாளையும்**

**19.09.1999**

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Mrs Vijaya Ratnam & Mrs Noreen Mahendrakumar

## *Message from the President*

On behalf of the SKANDA VARODAYA COLLEGE Old Students Association, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the old students, their families, friends and well wishers here today.

This is the first time we have organised an event in this scale and I can assure you all an exhilarating and entertaining evening.

One of the main aims of the association is to raise funds so that we can help our school back home and bring back the old glory. This year I am happy to say we sent a sum of £1000 to the school and we hope to do this on an annual basis.

I take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their help during the last year. My special thanks and appreciation go to Mr. and Mrs.

Ragumóorthy for hosting several of our meetings and their hospitality. I appeal to the old students to get in touch with us so that we can update our list of old students in the U.K.

Finally I like to thank all of you for being here to make this event a success and wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

S. NIMALANANDA  
PRESIDENT

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## REMEMBERING ORATOR

Mr C.Subramaniam, affectionately Orator to everyone, who knew him, was principal of Skanda Varodaya College from 1944 to 1962. I had the privilege of serving my community in all the fine traditions of a Guru under his enlightened and dedicated leadership during the first six years of his principalship.

when after retirement Mr Subramaniam and his wife visited UK in 1986, his old students and friends gave them a tumultuous welcome. He was overwhelmed and said " I assure you that the love you have shown me has struck a chord in my heart which will vibrate and produce sweet music in my ears as long as my life lasts .It was mainly due to his initiative that our old students' association (UK branch) which is today one of the oldest association of Sri Lankan colleges, was formed. He passed away on 18.2.94 in England where he was living in retirement.

A man who virtually transformed a small village school in a remote North Sri Lankan farming grade into a super grade educational institution of great repute, must surely belong to one of the educational greats of all times in Sri Lanka. It was not just a vision of formal education, which gained certain advantages only for those who succeeded in the system. Within the system responding to the needs of the community, he provided more opportunities that brought the best out of the students and prepared them to be ready for life.

Mr Subramaniam also challenged the very social forces which held the society in straight-jacket confines, promoted and sustained divisions based on such detestable considerations as caste. In fact it was the accepted norm of those time that education of any consequence was open only to a privileged few. Mr Subramaniam did not merely belong to a small group of enlightened men, who knew what was right and what was wrong and showed compas-

sion to those who were denied of basic rights as an act of charity. He had the guts, conviction and the vision to fight these factors at the very roots of oppression. It is a matter of great pride that stalwart traditionalists began to appreciate the progressive nature of his educational leadership in the community.

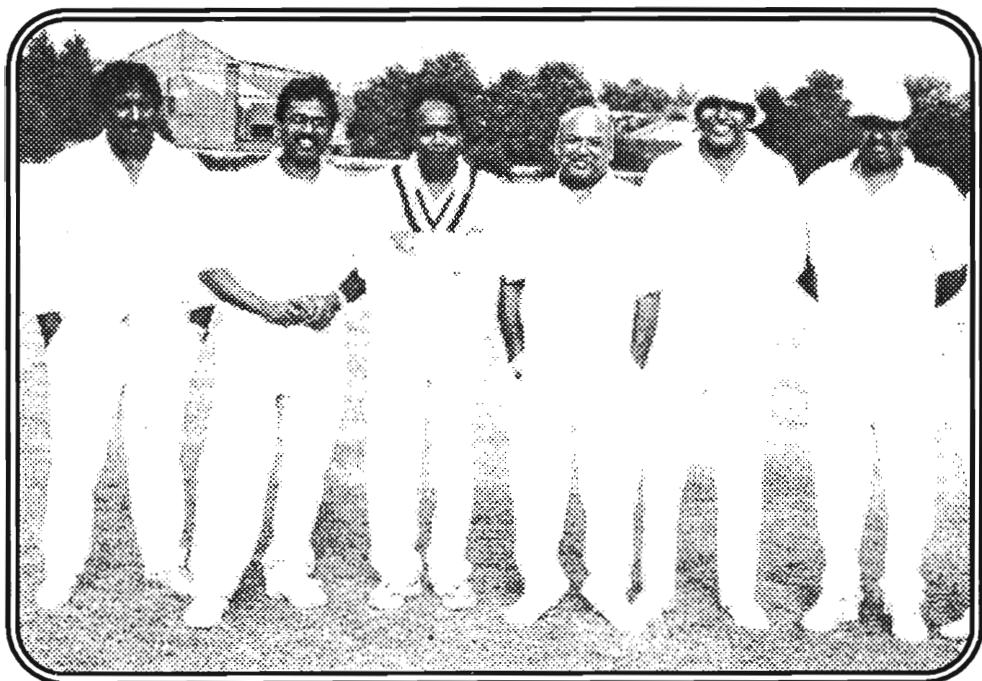
He was a natural and spontaneous part of a voice of liberal thinking that blew across the peninsula during the nineteen twenties and nineteen thirties under the flag of the Jaffna Youth Congress. When his time came to involve himself in public life he plunged rightfully into the field of education. After having served Skanda and the community most excellently, he has truly earned for himself his rightful place in the galaxy of Sri Lanka's great educationalists of all times.

Another aspect of Mr Subramaniam's principalship which has become a legend, was the refuge he gave to many students rejected by other schools as unfit for higher education. In all of them, he saw hope and extended to them that special consideration and understanding they needed. Many of them made the grade and in course of time took their rightful place in society, some of them as professionals of great repute. Students from Skanda not only shone in the academic side of education, but also in no small measure in the field of sports and other extra curricular activities.

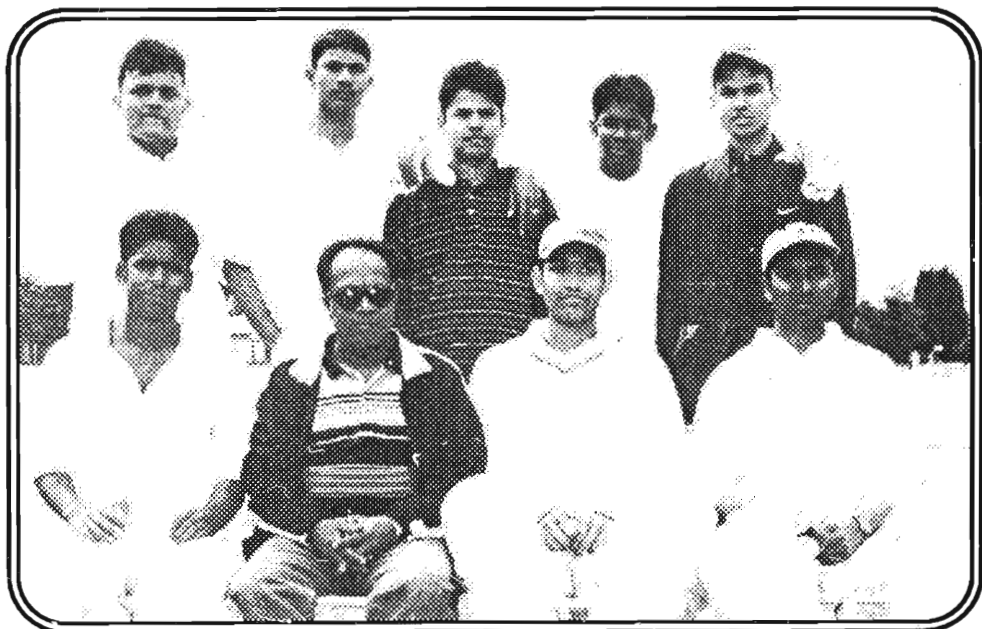
In the current circumstances, when the future looks so bleak, I am sure when a new tomorrow dawns, as surely it will, out of the ruins will arise a community which will walk with pride and dignity. At this time we will remember those hand full of men, who had the vision to see our course in the right path with profound gratitude.

N. S. Kandiah

**1998 OVER 40 TEAM**



**1998 UNDER 40 TEAM**



# **PROGRAMME**

## 1. Annual General Meeting 6-7 p.m.

- \* School Song
- \* President's Address
- \* Secretary's Report and minutes of the last AGM
- \* Treasurer's Report
- \* Election of office Bearers

## 2. Comedy entertainment - சக்கடத்தர் : 7 - 7.15 p.m.

## 3. மெல்லிசை - Recital of new and old film and other songs : 7.15 - 9.30

Directed by Mr Sarangan Sriranganathan

Singers: Kanaakuyil Sivakumar  
Kanaakuyil Yogakiri  
Krishna Thavam  
M.Sathiamoorthy  
Sarojini Selvakumar  
Lavanya Thilakam  
Inthu Pathmabaskaran  
Sinthu pathmabaskaran &  
Vijitha Varatharajan

## 4. Dinner 9.30 p.m.



# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**President:** Mr.S.Nimalananda

Vice Presidents: Mr.S.Kanagasabai  
Mr.N.S.Kandiah

**General Secretary:** Dr(Mrs) V.Yogendran

Asst.Secretary: Mrs M.Bahu

**Treasurer:** Mr.R.Vimalendran

Sports Coordinator: Mr.V.Umachandran

Cricket Secretary: Mr.A.Sathinandan

Football Secretary: Mr.M.Sivanathan

Netball Secretary: Mrs.V.Gangatharan

Badminton Secretary: Mr.P.Ranjan

Cultural Secretary: Mr.M.Sathiyamoorthy

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr.M.Chellappah

Dr.T.Gunasuntharam

Dr.C.Mahendran

Mr.S.Nadesan

Mr.A.Ragumoorthy

Mr.P.Rajanayagam

Dr(Mrs) M.K.J.Sabanathan

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**INTERNAL AUDITOR:**

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## **RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS**

**1997**

**DEBATE TEAM MEMBERS**

**N.NISHANTHAN**

**P.BALENDRA**

**K. UTHAYAKUMAR**

Won first prize in the North Eastern Provincial Contest and third prize in the National Contest

**STORY WRITING - MISS S ARALSHI**

Participated in the Tamil Day Festival Competition and won the following

First Prize in North Eastern Provincial Competition and Second Prize in the National Competition. She also participated in the programmes broadcast by IBC London and SLBC. In 1998, she won the first prize again in North Eastern Provincial Competition.

**1998**

**ATHLETICS -MISS SUBAJINI**

In the athletic meeting held by the North Eastern Province, she took part in 400m, 800m and 1500m races and was placed first, second and third respectively. She was selected to take part in the public school athletic competition but sadly was unable to travel to Colombo due to financial and political situation.

**1999**

**QUIZ COMPETITION** In April this year, the college team won first prize in the quiz competition "Knowledge of Commerce" held by the Commerce Faculty of Jaffna University. In 1997, 79 students attained the necessary grades to enter university and 37 of them gained high grades.

We congratulate all these students in their achievements and wish them well for the future.



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